

# the Bullet



Volume 82, No. 14

Serving the Mary Washington Community since 1922.

## What's Inside

Top 10: Roses Closes



See pg. 5

Unisex Housing at UMW



See pg. 7

January 29, 2009

## Snow Day at UMW



Emily McAlpine/Bullet

Above: Campus Walk on Tuesday morning. Right: A snowman outside of George Washington Hall. Below: The UMW sign on the corner of William Street and College Avenue.



Heather Brady/Bullet



Emily McAlpine/Bullet

Right: Sophomores Sydney Lyons, Amanda Howland, and Bethany Farrell play football in Ball Circle with their friends.



Heather Brady/Bullet

## Minors Are Approved

By KAT SAUNDERS  
Staff Writer

Wed. evening, Jan. 28, the Academic Affairs committee moved that the UMW College of Arts and Sciences allow academic apartments to offer minors to undergraduate students. Minors will be offered starting in the fall of 2010, with the first minors appearing on transcripts of the 2011 graduating class.

Minors will be optional, and departments will not be required to offer a minor. Minors will be subject to the same declaration and approval process as majors. They will consist of between 15 and 28 credits, with at least three upper level classes required. Students will not be able to declare a minor until they have declared a major.

Information about specific minors can be obtained from the appropriate department once the program has been implemented.

The Academic Affairs committee discussed plans to vote on the movement last semester, but concerns

by smaller departments over funding and the wording of the motion led to a delay.

The rationale released by the committee acknowledged the concern over smaller departments losing students or funding, stating:

"We do not believe that any department would be eliminated as a result of implementing minors."

The University's lack of minors has been a source of student debate for years, and response to the new option seems to be largely popular.

"I'm excited because I can get credit for my other academic interests," said sophomore Erin Burke.

Minor programs are offered at other Virginia state public universities, including the College of William and Mary, Longwood University, and Christopher Newport University. The Academic Affairs committee cited competition for admissions, response to student demands, and educational benefits as rationale for approving the program.

## Monroe to Get a Face Lift

By ASHLEY LEAKE  
Staff Writer

Students will be taking classes in trailers for two years during the Monroe Hall renovations according to Dean Rosemary Barra, interim vice president for Academic Affairs and dean of the faculty for the College of Arts and Sciences.

The Monroe Hall renovations will begin in the summer of 2009 and cost the school approximately \$12 million, according to Executive Vice President Richard Hurley.

Some classes in the Departments of political science and international affairs, sociology and anthropology, geography, history and American studies and economics currently housed in Monroe will be moved temporarily to the bookstore trailer. Other classes in these departments will be spread around campus.

"The bookstore will be moving back into Lee Hall and so we will convert the current bookstore into some classroom space to be used while Monroe Hall is off line," Barra said.

Some students are upset that they will be forced to take classes in trailers.

"I thought only public K-12 schools had to worry about taking classes in trailers," Jessica Pryor, a sophomore biology and sociology major, said. "I feel like I pay a lot of money to go to a nice school and have my classes in historic buildings, not trailers."

Other students agree with Pryor and are frustrated by the administration's decision.

"I do not mind having my classes in other places to accommodate the renovations, but I do wish the classes could be somewhere other than the trailers," Julia Robinson, a junior international affairs and political science major, said. "I was under the assumption that the trailers were a short term solution to the Lee Hall renovations."

Students also expressed concern as

## Committee Gives Students Voice

By MEGAN EICHENBERG  
Staff Writer

Each month, 25 University of Mary Washington faculty and staff members and six students meet to discuss change.

Founded in the spring of 2007 by Nina Mikhailovsky, UMW acting provost and vice president for strategy and policy, the Student Services Committee works to improve and advance relationships between departments of student services and between students and the administration.

The University's changes in library hours during exam week, the pilot parking program and the addition of late night self-service Starbucks coffee in the Dome Room are each recent outcomes of Student Services Committee

meetings.

"The idea was to bring together the offices that provide basic services to students and ensure students are being met," Mikhailovsky said.

Mikhailovsky served as a chair on the committee during its first two years and is now a current member.

She describes the committee as a "mechanism for students to raise con-

cerns, particularly pertaining to student services."

*"The purpose of the committee is to truly listen to the students and take their suggestions and try to run with them."*

—Kelly Reeder

ideas and suggestions, including contacting student members and administrative chairs and posting on the "UMW Student Suggestion Forum" Facebook group.

The current chairs of the committee are Executive Assistant to the President Ranni Corbin, Executive Vice President Richard Hurley, and Vice President for Enrollment and Communications Martin Wilder.

"Students were an integral part of the committee from the beginning, providing student input and allowing the administrators to hear directly from students about issues and concerns," Wilder said, who has served on the committee since it was founded. "I be-

lieve that the committee was a success."

► See SSC, page 9

► See MONROE, page 9

## Inauguration: Worth the Trek to D.C.

By BRIAN MEANEY  
Staff Writer

President Obama's historical inaugural swearing in on Jan. 20 turned into a four-day long celebration jam-packed with parties, balls, and celebrities as well as millions of people who flooded the Nation's Capital to take a part, no matter how small, in the historical moment.

Some may see the paraphernalia as an obvious sign that many in the country see Obama as the way for positive change, but the interest in the balls and galas, official or not, showed how strong the desire was for people to take part in these celebrations.

The Presidential Inaugural Committee planned ten balls for the night of inauguration where the Obamas and Bidens would be in attendance, but many of the unofficial galas and balls were in just as high demand. As many as 70 other balls and galas were organized, and I was lucky enough to take part in one of these

balls.

On the Sunday before the inauguration, right after the concert with Bon Jovi, Beyoncé, and U2, the Lincoln 2.0 Gala commenced at the Smithsonian Museum of American Art and Portrait Gallery.

My date only found out the Friday before that she was given complementary tickets, normally \$500 per person, to the Lincoln ball, so the rush to get me a tuxedo was on. I found out at 2 p.m. that I was going and the tuxedo rental required that I got to their store in Central Park by 4 p.m. to get measured and have the suit expedited, at an extra charge of course. Luckily, I managed.

I unexpectedly ended up being one of the many who decided to take the train into Union Station on the Sunday before inauguration. Having no pre-registered ticket caused issues with the train engineer who attempted to charge me the maximum

Two UMW students share their first-person accounts of the Presidential Inauguration.



Mary Turner/Bullet

Obama speaks at the Commander-in-Chief Ball Tuesday, Jan. 20.

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By MARY TURNER  
Staff Writer

Sitting in traffic sipping hot Starbucks early Tuesday morning before the sun had even thought about rising, I could not help but notice the hundreds of cars surrounding me with plates from every state across the country. They were probably on their way to work, or maybe heading north to visit Boston.

I knew I would be the only one clever enough to leave at 3 a.m. and take the Franconia-Springfield Metro into D.C. Surely all these "tourists" could not be heading to the same place as I.

Unfortunately, I was still in denial and refused to believe that all these cars were on their way to the National Mall.

Two hours later, after what should have been a thirty-minute trip, I took the last step of my frappuccino, bundled up, and braved the massive crowds of the metro station. As I

hustled onto the blue line train towards Rosslyn, I soon realized that I would become "closer" to my fellow Americans than I ever thought possible.

Claustrophobia, motion sickness, and lack of oxygen aside, there was something in the air, an intangible feeling of excitement and camaraderie on a train ride to history.

After a 15-block detour, due to an unfortunate accident at our intended Chinatown stop, I finally arrived at the Capitol Building. My husband and I secured a cozy spot in front of the JumboTron in the Yellow Northwest Standing area of the Capitol lawn. We still had a decent view of the podium and makeshift stage on the steps of the Capitol.

For some reason the magnitude of the event was about to witness had not hit me yet. Others in the crowd were already screaming, dancing, crying, and praying. Maybe it is the

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## Upcoming Events:

### Judicial Review Board Election Workshop

Thurs., January 29,  
5 p.m. and 8 p.m.  
Washroom

### Tereu Tereu, Title Tracks, and the Vermilions at the Loft

Thurs., Jan 29  
doors open at  
9 p.m.  
\$8 for 18+  
\$5 for 21+

### Senior Countdown

Casino games all night, auction at 12 a.m. Free food and gambling!  
Seniors only.  
Fri., Jan. 30, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. Great Hall

### Historic Preservation Club Annual Victorian Ball

Sat., Jan. 31 7p.m.  
Great Hall  
UMW Students: \$8  
Non Students: \$13  
UMW Couples: \$15  
Non Students  
Couples: \$25

### Superbowl

Sun., Feb. 1, Great Hall. Superbowl game played on big screens!

### Gospel Extravaganza

Sun., Feb. 1, 3 p.m. Dodd Auditorium.  
Presented by The James Farmer Multicultural Center

Events courtesy of OSACS.  
If you would like your event listed, contact *The Bullet* at [newsxcrew@gmail.com](mailto:newsxcrew@gmail.com). Send a flyer image if possible.

## Outside the Fence



By HEATHER BRADY  
News Editor

### Regional

Police reported dozens of minor crashes in the Fredericksburg area because of the first snowfall of 2009. Yesterday, road crews started applying salt and abrasives to Fredericksburg-area roads once snow began falling, and kept applying the substances all day. By yesterday afternoon, the pavement on Interstate 95 and primary roads like State Route 3, U.S. 17 AND U.S. 1 was mostly clear after 1 to 3 inches of snow fell on the area. Sgt. F.L. Tyler of the Virginia State Police said there were numerous weather-related accidents yesterday on I-95, as well as on secondary roads, but there were no injuries. No more snow is expected for the rest of the week. (The Free Lance-Star, Jan. 28; [www.fredericksburg.com](http://www.fredericksburg.com))

## Budget Faces Looming Cuts

By ERIC STEIGLEDER  
Staff Writer

As the national and state economies continue to worsen, Governor Tim Kaine has recommended that the General Assembly cut \$1,917,808 from Mary Washington's state funding for the 2009 fiscal year. Kaine has also recommended a state-funding cut of nearly \$3,573,822 for the 2010 fiscal year, a total state-funding cut of fifteen percent.

The Virginia General Assembly will not approve the state's official budget until Feb. 28th, leaving many unsure of Mary Washington's fiscal future.

According to Richard Pearce, associate vice president for business and finance, the university is still recovering from the round of cuts implemented during the 2003-2004 fiscal year.

However, unlike that round of cuts, which were focused mainly on administrative spending, this new round of cuts may affect all sectors of the university.

"Unlike the 2003-2004 period, all departments are on the table," Pearce said. "Everything is on the table according to the President."

While overall cuts to departmental spending are daunting, smaller departments may especially fare worse following budget reductions.

When asked to comment, Craig Vasey, chair of the department of Classics, philosophy and religion, was practical in his assessment.

"We don't know anything about how budget cuts will happen yet, or how they will affect us," Vasey said in an e-mail interview. "Of course we do not look forward to them and we hope to not be affected. I have not heard any proposals for cuts yet."

According to Paul Messplay, executive Director of budget analysis, this should not be surprising. Because the departments have no official numbers to go by, there is little to no way to gauge the effect of a funding cut accurately.

"At this point," Messplay said, "the individual departments will not be on top of this."

However, Pearce was quick to point out that the university has been taking steps to lessen the impact of the impending budget cuts.

"We're holding some positions open and freezing other positions," he said. "We're trying to rein in spending."

Once the funding cuts go into effect, Messplay outlined some possible steps the university will take to make up the difference.

"The state funding reduction," Messplay said, "will likely be addressed through a combination of hiring freezes, turnover and vacancy savings, targeted and/or across-the-board budget cuts, and tuition and fee increases."

Pearce hinted at a possible proposal by the General Assembly to aid higher education in the aftermath of the proposed cuts, although there is no precise plan as of this writing.

### National

President Obama sought to put pressure on Congress to pass an \$825 billion stimulus package hours before the House of Representatives' vote on the proposal. He met with business leaders concerned about the economy and invited Republican and Democratic congressional leaders to the White House tonight for cocktails. In his morning meeting, Obama told a group of about 100 business leaders that Congress must not delay in efforts to restart the economy and put people back to work. But Republicans in the House appeared not to be persuaded, and GOP House leaders renewed their criticism that the measure has too few tax cuts, is too large and is filled with unnecessary spending. (The Washington Post, Jan. 28; [www.washingtonpost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com))

### Global

On Tuesday morning, Palestinian fighters detonated a bomb near the fence between Israel and the Gaza Strip, killing an Israeli soldier. Israeli gunfire later killed a Palestinian farmer. Israeli officials claim to have killed the bomb attack planner in an airstrike. The attacks mark the worst outbreak of violence since Israel and Hamas established a ceasefire over a week ago following 22 days of war. The killings escalated tension the night before a visit by the Obama administration's new Middle East envoy, former Senator George J. Mitchell, to Israel and the West Bank. (The Washington Post, Jan. 28; [www.washingtonpost.com](http://www.washingtonpost.com))

## Inauguration Inspires Student

◀ OBAMA, page 1

music buff inside me, but my moment came when Aretha Franklin got on stage and sang "My Country 'Tis of Thee."

As she sang the words "let freedom ring" to millions of Americans gathered at the Capitol, I got chills.

With Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on my brain from the holiday the day prior, I recalled how at the end of his 1963 "I Have a Dream" speech, he spoke out the exact same words.

"This will be the day when all of God's children will be able to sing with a new meaning, 'My country, 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing. Land where my fathers died, land of the pilgrim's pride, from every mountain-side, let freedom ring,'" he said.

That is when I realized that I was taking part in something bigger than myself. As I stood with my arms linked to the people around me, of all

shades and ancestry, I realized I was taking part in a moment in time, where my fellow Americans and I were living the "Dream" of a great man.

My children will read about the inauguration of the 44th President of the United States in their history books. They will probably ask me questions

about it, just as I have often asked my mother to recount the stories of the Civil Rights Movement, John F. Kennedy, and Vietnam.

I will likely not remember the fact that I got two hours of sleep, or that my coffee went cold during the ride to D.C. I will not remember the faces of the people who were squeezed in tightly to me on the train, or the feeling of numbness in my toes as I walked to the Capitol. I will however remember the fact that I was there to witness a historical moment in our nation's history. I watched a man become president that day, not because of the color of his skin, but because of the content of his character.

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historical moment in our nation's history. I watched a man become president that day, not because of the color of his skin, but because of the content of his character.

## New Internet Server a Success

By KAT SAUNDERS  
Staff Writer

When the residential internet service shut down two weeks ago on Friday the 17th, it raised concerns that the new Apogee, Inc. Internet service would not live up to expectations.

"I was unable to complete some of my homework, and I felt frustrated because it seemed like the same problems despite the new network," senior Lauren Hoard said.

However, according to Kali Yadzi, vice president of Information Technologies and Chief Information Officer, the problem was related to equipment problems in Tyson's Corner, Virginia, and are unlikely to occur again.

"Someone cut a fiber cable in Tyson's Corner. Anyone and everyone

connected to that path were cut off," Yadzi said. "It's an extraordinary event. Because of that we are talking to Apogee about some fail over so if Apogee is down students will still have service."

However, according to Yadzi and to Associate Director of User Services Pam Lowery, the switch to the Apogee system has been largely successful.

"I was in the office on the Sunday students moved into residence halls. Typically the phone would've run off the hook, and I got some calls, but most of those calls were from faculty and staff, by and large they were not from students," Lowery said.

Lowery said that problems related to the Apogee internet service are handled by the company's hotline, so she was unable to determine how many students did have problems with setting up their internet system.

However, the UMW coordinator for Apogee services received only 4 "tickets," or complaints that were not able to be handled over the phone, by the Monday after spring semester move in, according to Lowery.

"I think that if students would be having huge issues we would be hearing about it," Lowery said.

Yadzi had also heard complaints that certain digital content providers used for research will not work with the new provider. Information Technologies is working with the University Library to fix that issue.

UMW's switch to a new e-mail platform, hosted by Microsoft, was also largely semester. The bulk of problems have been with MAC users, as Live@Edu is currently only compatible with Internet Explorer 7.

According to Yadzi, a new version of Internet Explorer will be released in February that is compatible with MAC computers. Until then, students can continue to use the old mailbox system until the end of the semester. Students may also use their old e-mail addresses, as long as they are forwarded to another interface, until graduation.

"All but one of the problems I have encountered with the e-mail system was due to that issue," Lowery said.

Despite the apparent success, Information Technologies will continue to work on problems.

"If there are huge problems, we do want to hear about it, because we don't want students to be under serviced," Lowery said. "We did this to try to make things better for students."

### Want to be like Superman?

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[newsxcrew@gmail.com](mailto:newsxcrew@gmail.com), or come to the Sunday night weekly newscrew meetings at



### Correction:

In "Protest Extends Library Hours" (Jan. 22), the pull quote attributed to Daniel Kauffman was actually from Akhil Rachamadugu. The quote was properly attributed to Rachamadugu in the article.

# Viewpoints

## Will the Progress Really Never End?

Remember the Westmo Lawn? And the Lee Hall Ballroom? And the Underground?

Many students don't, though some upperclassmen still recall these picture-esque, purely collegiate locations as reasons they chose to make Mary Washington their home for four years.

Sure, we came for the intimate academic atmosphere, the inspiring faculty, and the charm of downtown Fredericksburg. But our campus was absolutely stunning. The lawn in front of Westmoreland Hall was perfect for afternoon softball games, and some of us began our campus tours under the chandeliers of Lee Hall.

For the last couple of years, however, it has been impossible to ignore the growing number of rubble heaps lining Campus Walk and we've watched the estimated completion dates for construction projects come and go.

Some of this is not the University's fault. There will always be unexpected delays, and sometimes new problems are only unearthed when the ground is broken for another.

Still, it seems like every project sees its completion date come and go. The Bell Tower on Double Drive, one of the first places visitors see when they enter campus, was months overdue. It's done now, and is quite impressive, as long as you don't see the slight tilt.

Lee Hall's completion date has been adjusted multiple times, with the most recent one being fall 2008, with a move-in planned for the period in between semesters. Check your calendars.

As shrubs cropped up in front of

Westmoreland lining the "temporary bookstore," many us became worried. Temporary structures don't usually get landscaping.

Most of the construction projects in process are either much-needed or will add significantly to the University in some way, but better planning, stricter adherence to deadlines and concern for the appearance of the campus are essential.

Asking for improvement is not out of line.

Most of all, this frustration comes from our earnest desire to preserve and promote the natural beauty of our campus. Not just for us, though it doesn't help that these dreary winter days are often pierced by the sound of a jackhammer on GW's steps. It's what drew many of us in, and we don't want the various states of construction to deter people from all that our school has to offer.

With the start of the spring semester, the tour groups on campus are becoming larger and more frequent as potential students come to see for themselves what our school has to offer. There's still plenty to be proud of. Seacobeck Hall is virtually unrecognizable from its state four years ago, and we're trying to be optimistic about the prospect of Eagle Village across Route 1, even if Roses did get the ax.

These improvements on campus have great potential, we just hope everyone gets to see them, and that the University sets realistic deadlines and sticks to them as much as they possibly can. It would be nice to pinch-hit in a Westmo pick-up game again, or take in Ball Circle from the steps of Lee one more time.

## Staff Editorial

## New Rule Sets Back Rights for Women

BY BREEANNA SVEUM  
Assistant Viewpoints Editor

As part of a train of 11th hour legislation from the Bush administration, a new federal rule was passed allowing healthcare providers to refuse care based on moral and religious objections. Doctors can refuse any care to which they morally object, despite the relative necessity of the procedure.

The rule, which will cost upwards of \$43 million a year to enforce, was aimed at doctors and healthcare workers who object to certain reproductive procedures, like abortion and emergency contraception. It requires institutions receiving federal funding to certify their compliance as conscientious objectors.

The new administration, with its promises of change and hope for women's rights, should make it a priority to issue new regulations to overturn or bypass this rule. All women deserve the right to make their own decisions about reproduction and to have access to all possible options. The new rule is superfluous, vaguely worded and dangerous for women's reproductive rights.

books that protect healthcare providers from participating in abortions and sterilizations that they object to morally. Current regulations state that institutions cannot discriminate against doctors who refuse to perform abortions.

The new rule is unnecessary and so vague that it could prevent women from obtaining birth control or emergency contraception due to the objections of pharmacists and prescribing doctors.

Doctors who object to emergency contraception, even in the event of rape, can make it difficult for women to get the care they need after such a traumatic situation.

Additionally, the rule makes it difficult for women who are pregnant to obtain counseling to learn about all of their options.

By effectively reducing access to contraception and counseling for women, the new rule will lead to an increase in unwanted and unintended pregnancy, not a decrease.

The best way to prevent unwanted pregnancy and, in turn, abortion, is increased awareness about and access to contraception. The best way to ensure this is to overturn or trump this new rule with additional regulation so women, and all Americans, are ensured access to the care they deserve, regardless of the objections of a vocal minority.

## A Nominal Change in the Paper...

*Post.*

The *Post* also identifies those who write articles as staff writers, as that is the position they are fulfilling in their role as reporter.

Editors will still be identified by name in the masthead, found at the bottom of this page, as well as in any personal columns or areas in which they are acting as editors.

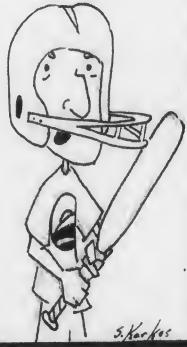
We hope this does not create any confusion when reading the *Bullet*, and we welcome any feedback concerning this decision.

### Why some weekends at college must be FEARED!!!

Normally, a 21st birthday at college is something that is looked forward to with the type of love that people normally reserve for puppies and Winter Break.

This week, I have TWO friends that are turning 21 within twenty-four hours of each other.....and they are roommates....

IM FREAKING TERRIFIED!!!!



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# Bullet

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Serving the University of  
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Community since 1922.

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The *Bullet* is published on Thursday afternoons during the fall and spring semesters. All decisions are made by the editorial board, independent of the *Bullet* adviser.

### Letter and Editorial Policy

The *Bullet* is always eager to receive letters to the editor and guest columns, and every effort is made to print them.

Letters should be submitted the Monday before publication. Letters should be no longer than 300 words and contain three typed double-spaced pages.

We will not publish anonymous submissions. Letters must include a phone number and address for purposes of verification. They can be mailed to the *Bullet* at 1701 College Avenue, Fredericksburg, VA, 22401-4666, delivered to our office in Seacobeck Hall or sent to our e-mail at umwbullet@gmail.com.

Opinions expressed in columns or letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff. Contact the *Bullet* at 540-654-1133.

# Viewpoints

## Sex and Camping: Ideas for Answering the Call of the Wild

I've heard the story at least a dozen times from various narrators.

Armed with backpacks and hiking boots, the courageous couple will set off on a trail that will lead them through a tangle of trees. With the patched sunlight shining through the brush, the companions won't bother to dwell on idle chitchat, not when the woods are filled with the sounds of crunching leaves and singing birds.

As night falls upon them, the couple finds a nice spot that has a fire pit and a place to set up a tent. They walk together and look for dry branches and leaves to start a fire. One will prepare the food while the other tends to a fledgling fire. Stars begin to appear in the dark sky.

The night is perfect. And as the fire dies down and bellies are full from a simple yet tasty meal, the couple will go into their tent, their bodies full of tranquility along with a vast wilderness of hormones.

This is the point in the story where the trouble starts.

Curious raccoons, ruined sleeping bags, strange infections, poison ivy in places I don't even want to think about, and large bruises from the rocky ground. While the romantic idea of consummating a relationship in the vast reaches of the wilderness may sound like a wonderful idea, just like any moment of passion outside of the bedroom, natural lovin' does have its potential consequences.

For instance, after my friend Danny and his girlfriend had just finished embracing their animalistic urges, some other creatures of the woods decided to pay them a visit by loudly coming up to the tent, scratching and snarling at until Danny's terrified girlfriend started to scream. Prompted by his fair maiden's terror, Danny burst out of the tent and ran at what he later recalled to be foxes, screaming at them in the process.

The animals took a hint and hightailed it out of

there, but the couple slept poorly for the rest of the night. He later found out from some fellow hikers that used contraceptives are an animal magnet. Go figure.

While this doesn't happen to everyone, there are some helpful tips that can keep a romantic evening in the woods from turning into a horror film.

Just like toilet paper and other man-made disposables, contraceptives need to be stored in a way that they don't generate a smell for animals to follow. The best way is in a zip lock bag for later disposal.

Also it's important to clean the area where you set up tent. In doing so, you prevent any unexpected rocks or branches when bodies start to hit the ground. Additionally, sleeping bags are not the best spread for a cozy tent dojo. Sweat and body oils work on breaking down the materials of your sleeping bag. If you have plans to answer the call

of the wild while on your camping trip, consider bringing a blanket to absorb the brunt of your activity.

And if you happen to find a nice stream to wash off, for the love of Zeus, maintain those sexual urges! As clean as a body of water in the middle of nowhere may seem, a healthy stream is supposed to have bacteria, and consummating your love in it is just asking for water born diseases.

Finally, know where your bed lies. As beautiful as having a passionate rendez-vous en plein aire may seem, poison ivy will not hold back its terrible wrath just for you.

I'm certainly not saying that you shouldn't answer the call of the wild during a camping trip. I mean if bears can do it, why not us? But when the trip is over and the deeds have been done, it would be better to come out of the woods with a satisfied appetite rather than a couple bite marks (animal, that is) and a poison oak rash the size of a canteen.

Miles Dumville / Bullet



By KJ Adler,  
Staff Writer



## Comfortable Boots Put the Ugg in Ugly

Their name says it all. There is no form of footwear more hideous than the Ugg boot, and almost every girl I know owns a pair. Shapeless and unflattering, the squishy shoes clash with every outfit imaginable, and often give off a Mary-Kate Olsen-esque homeless person vibe. You might as well duct tape two teddy bears to your feet.

Surely, the fashion industry must be playing some kind of sick joke on all of us with this trend. I vowed to never saddle my feet with the humiliation of donning such repulsiveness. It was a true nonconformist.

And then I put my foot in one.

Suddenly, my feet were floating on a bed of freshly roasted marshmallows. Everything below my knees was now encapsulated in a pillow of sheepskin and warming wonder. It was as if I'd stuck my leg inside of a lamb.

Back off PETA, it's only a simile.

So I too succumbed to the fad, throwing down \$170, plus \$30 more for weather-proofing spray. I've been wiggling my toes ever since. My paper thin



**Susannigans**  
By Susannah Clark,  
Associate Editor

I used to be like you.

Also, it is essential to go with brand name. Fake Uggs, or "fuggs" as they have been so preciously branded, do not have the same whimsical shearing lining. In short, Bearclaw and Target brand are simply not ugly enough.

My charcoal gray Uggs are aesthetic proof that I don't give a Dr. Scholl pad what my shoes look like. Lack of arch support aside, I am proud to expose my rubber soul. How about dem apples, Christian Dior?

Sometimes I think Uggs boots are a fur-lined middle finger to a footwear industry that forces women to blister in 4-inch stilettos, just for the sake of calf-definition. Maybe all the single ladies wearing Eskimo shoes are rebelling; we're sick of looking sexy, sick of coordinating outfits just to get a guy or two to add you on Facebook. Maybe ugly is the new attractive. Maybe we don't have to care anymore.

And then I put my foot in one again and realize, as with most things, there is no deeper meaning, there is no cultural statement:

They're just so flippin' comfortable.



photo courtesy of xanga.com

"You can't handle the truth!"



photo courtesy of eucatastrophe.com

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# Entertainment

## Never Too Young to Sing the Blues

### Touring Stafford Teens Play Music Beyond Their Years

By ALEX CULBRETH  
Staff Writer

When one thinks of the blues, being barrelled out of tiny nightclubs or shouted from the streets for spare change, cities such as New Orleans and Memphis usually come to mind.

Stafford, Virginia is certainly not the home to any style of blues or to any famous blues musicians, but it is the hometown of twin 13-year-old brothers who play the blues better than most musicians well into their 40's.

At their young age, they've already played concerts in New York City, Washington D.C., Maryland, North Carolina and throughout Virginia.

They've also opened up for Jimmy Wayne, a touring country singer, and played guitar at concerts with Ellis Paul, a prominent folksinger from Charlottesville, Virginia.

Jeff and Brian Brown-Hill have both been playing guitar for five years.

Their mother, Barbara Brown-Hill explained, "From the time they were two, they were interested in music. Each year they would ask for a guitar for Christmas."

Finally, at the age of seven, their parents consented and bought them both electric guitars.

Brian and Jeff have both faithfully been taking music lessons ever since. They have been playing shows in and out of state over the past three years.

Their repertoire is surprisingly diverse and does not stop with the blues.

"We also play folk, rock and country," Brian

says. At their shows, they cover such artists as Bob Dylan, Neil Young and Stevie Ray Vaughn. How did these two young musicians become

ing up?" Jeff said, "one of his Stevie Ray Vaughn CD's gave us the idea of what we wanted to do with the guitar."

"Voodoo Child" on electric guitar without breaking a sweat, but it's true.

Their mother Barbara explains where all their talent originated from.

"It's driven by them. They were passionate about seeing live music before they ever started playing," she said. "I've always allowed them to pursue what they were passionate about. I can't imagine not allowing them to do what they love."

Jeff and Brian are both home-schooled by their mother.

Barbara points out the connection between their music and their education: "Researching musicians and music is tied into the home-schooling.

Our philosophy is that 'school is life, and life is school.' They've learned so much from playing music and from playing concerts. The music, travel, and the people they've met have enriched their lives."

Jeff and Brian talked about what music means to them and what they hope to do with their music in the future.

"I never liked sports or anything too competitive," Jeff said. "When I'm sad about something, or mad at someone, I just play music."

Brian explains what hopes to accomplish with music in his lifetime:

"I hope to play concerts out West, record albums, tour and maybe meet Neil Young."

With the help and support of their mother, they have both accomplished a tremendous amount by such a tender age. Their mother, Barbara, sums up her sons' passion for music and performing:

"It's something they've always wanted to do, but I had no idea where it would take them."



Alex Culbreth/Bullet

**Twins Jeff and Brian Brown-Hill rehearse their travelling blues act. The boys have already opened for acts like Jimmy Wayne and played in New York City.**

aware of artists who were making records nearly forty years before they were born?

"We listened to a lot of our dad's records growing

up. It may sound hard to believe that these two 13-year-old boys can casually discuss Eric Clapton records and play Jimi Hendrix's

## Hootie Guitarist Goes Solo

### Mark Bryan Releases Reflective Solo Disc

By TRICIA CALLAHAN  
Staff Writer

Hootie and the Blowfish sold over 12 million copies of their 1994 release "Cracked Rear View," according to *Billboard Magazine*'s website. "Rear View" is one of the top-selling albums of all time, topped only by names like Elvis and The Beatles.

But where are the musicians of South Carolina's blues rock quartet now?

Lead singer Darius Rucker has come out with a fairly successful country record "Learn to Live."

Rucker's band mate guitarist Mark Bryan has also released a solo album called "End of the Front." The album is a tight guitar-driven collec-

tion of songs which express a variety of themes.

"The songs were written over a 10 year period, and convey many different messages. The title is a nod to turning 40, and being comfortable with who I am. It is the end of the front half of my life, but I am also setting out to ditch the ego, and be my true self," Bryan said in an interview.

Bryan jumps from genre to genre with no real concern of following a main-stream pattern:

"I try to make the feel of the music match the subject matter of the song, regardless of style."

Songs like "Fork in the Road" and "Everybody's Heart" show that Bryan has really established himself as a true solo act.

The lingering question: Do the members of

Hootie still hang out after their latest group effort in 2005's "Looking for Luck?"

"All the time. We are great friends, are our families," Bryan said. He went on to support Rucker saying, "The guy can sing pretty much anything. He was just born to do it."

Bryan's latest work was released in March 2008 but his top three priorities are his children Marlee, Kenny, and Madelyn.

Bryan, a guitarist that rose from a band that is now a true legend has his head on straight and his music reflects



image courtesy of hootie.com

## Top 10: Things You Missed at Roses

### The Best of the Best From Everyone's Favorite Defunct Department Store

By LANDON JAMES  
and RYAN MARR  
Staff Writers

At least once in their life, a person discovers a store that completely changes the way they view the world.

With absurdly low prices and an eclectic selection, Roses was that store, catering to the poor and bargain-seeking college student.

From Halloween costumes to expired jars of pickles, Roses had everything.

Now that the store is officially closed, we felt it was our duty to provide a fitting eulogy for the greatest retail outlet the Mary Washington community has known.

#### 1. Pleather:

Roses was bleeding out of the ears with everyone's favorite leather knock-off. If you have never slipped into a nice pleather suit, then you truly have not lived. Recommended Bargain: Purple alligator pleather pant and zip jacket set. Price: \$3.50

#### 2. Guard Owls:

Roses was always on the cutting edge of garden gnomes innovation. When demonic-looking guard owls replaced the conventional straw and plaid scarecrow as the in-vogue means to protect your garden, Roses was all over it. Recommended Bargain: Plastic Guard Owl Price: \$4.00

#### 3. Voodoo Dolls:

Ever wanted to get back at your roommate for that time they threw up all over the bathroom? Roses had you covered. For a small price, Roses offered a limitless selection of used, dirty dolls with which to torment your enemies. Recommended Bargain: Voodoo Doll Price: a few pieces of used cutlery.

#### 4. Screen-Printed T-Shirts:

If anyone ever tries to tell you that Roses lacked style, they were severely impaired when they

shopped there. Besides the pleather, Roses also offered an extensive selection of screen-printed T-shirts. Whether you were trying to show support for America's favorite Republicans or Democrats or display your enthusiastic support of the Last

Roses vast array of discount lamps. Not only were they cheap, but Roses also carried only the highest quality lamp fixtures imported directly from China. Recommended Bargain: Buddha Lamp with nippel tassels. Price: \$15.00

were an easy way to turn heads on campus walk and keep the wind off. Recommended Bargain: Vintage "Freedom" Windbreaker (red, white and blue). Price: \$10.00

#### 7. Elastic Jeans:

Having trouble fitting into your favorite pair of jeans? You could have checked out Roses fall collection of elastic jeans to improve your self-confidence and/or get a girlfriend. Roses' elastic waistbands were comfortable, stylish, and most of all, timeless. Recommended Bargain: A Pair of Faded, Elastic Blue Jeans -priced: one family heirloom

#### 8. Expired Candy:

If you thought Roses had the best deals on candy, almost to the point of being too good to be true, you're skepticism was justified. Now, I guess we'll all have to look to last year's Halloween candy to get that nice, stale, moldy-candy taste. Recommended Bargain: Tupperware Container of Cotton Candy (expiration date 9/15/89). Price: probably free

#### 9. Camouflaged Bear-Hunting Overalls:

Hunters agree that after using Roses bear-hunting overalls, they killed 1000% more bears and that the meat even tasted better. When you bought overalls from Roses, you won and bears lost. Every time. Recommended Bargain: Blood-stained "Bear Hunting" Overalls. Price: negotiable.

#### 10. Used Thermal Underwear:

Vintage Windbreaker not keeping you warm enough? Roses had you covered once again. Nothing tops mustard-stained thermal underwear for keeping warm in the cold winter months. Recommended Bargain: Armpit-Stained White Thermal Top. Price: your dignity.

#### Disclaimer:

Contrary to popular belief, Roses did not actually sell roses.



Ryan Marr/Bullet

Affronted sophomores Charlie Devine and Gregg Disalvo display their Roses purchases and clear displeasure at the store's demise.

Supper, Roses had it—as long as you didn't mind the XXXL size. Recommended Bargain: Barack Obama screen-printed T-shirt-\$8.00

#### 5. Discount Lamps:

Paying your electricity bill was never easier with

#### 6. Vintage Windbreakers:

Inside Roses the 80s never died. Purchasing a vintage windbreaker was just the way to show support for Run DMC, parachute pants, and jazzercise. Decked out in the brightest and most reflective of colors, these vintage windbreakers

# Entertainment

## Bird Lays Another Egg Novelty Wears Off on 'Noble Beast'

By RYAN MARR  
Staff Writer

The act of classifying Andrew Bird's music into a conventional genre for conversational purposes has plagued me for long enough.

In fact, I'm delegating the act to a mental laundry list of designation entitled "Shit I Will Never Do," where it sits securely above solving a Rubik's Cube and learning how to dance to rap songs.

Bird has, over the course of several releases under his own name, been just as likely to wax "Fiddler on the Roof," showcasing his classically-trained violin chops, as crank up the feedback on his guitar amp, shoot the whole mess through a loop station and whistle an endearing, occasionally eerie—always catchy—"Birdesque" melody over the whole thing.

Cheesy, I know. But in my defense, no other adjective does justice to the recognizably eclectic atmosphere Bird first cultivated on 2003's brilliant "Weather Systems," which has continued to reproduce with an ease I imagine causing even the most accomplished singer-songwriters to roll over in their sleep, winching with envy.

None of that unique aesthetic is missing on Bird's latest album "Noble Beast," though Bird's refreshing originality—once the most striking feature in his cap—has now become his greatest curse.

I don't mean to imply that "Beast" doesn't stack up with Bird's past releases.

In fact, all the usual tricks are here: a disarmingly hummable opening track ("Oh No"), head-spinning, interlocking melodies from another universe ("Anonamals"), and, of course Bird's

trademark wordplay—which usually flies right over the heads of even the most self-proclaimed literate of English majors (read: me).

It's just that the novelty has worn off.

Bird does take some creative steps outside of his comfort zone, most notably on the up-tempo, initial stand-outs "Fitz and the Dizzypills" and "Not a Robot, But a Ghost," but the rest of the album crawls at a slower pace revealing a more subdued Bird and the predictable come-down soundtrack to 2007's sprawling "Armchair Apocrypha."

Fans of "Apocrypha" will initially lament the absence of dizzying countermelodies and grandiose ambition on "Beast," replaced by simpler rustic musings backed by subtle acoustic plucking, Bird's soft croon and the occasional string flourish.

But where "Beast" comes up short on hooks, it compensates with staying power.

Album gems "Effigy," "Natural Disaster" and "Souverian," despite lacking the quirky dazzle emblematic of Bird, utilize quiet melodies that slowly inch their way into the cranium where, ideally on a rainy afternoon, they stand to take hold.

Unfortunately, this simple-is-better aesthetic is disregarded the moment Bird opens his mouth, spewing out a jumble of hyper-erudite lines that read more like a Scrabble game between T.S. Eliot, Thomas Pynchon and Stephen Hawking than anything resembling a song.

This alienating lyrical train-wreck becomes almost cringe inducing on "Tenuousness," when Bird eternally mumbles:

"Tenuousness was all he had to say when pressed about the rest of it; the world that is, from proto-Sanskrit Minoans to porto-centric Lisboans/



Image courtesy of timeoutchicago.com

and, of course, that damned flawless whistling.

But I've come to expect more from Andrew Bird.

For an artist who has made a career out of creating his own genre, so much of "Noble Beast" comes off as self-indulgent and predictable, or as Bird sings on album highlight "Effigy": "like the words of a man who has spent too much time alone."

## DiBella Past and Present: Dupont Holds a Retrospective for Veteran Professor

By KATIE ROBINSON  
Staff Writer

UMW Galleries held an open reception on Thursday, Jan 22 for Dupont Gallery's new exhibit, "Departures and Arrivals: Previous and Recent Works" by Joseph Di Bella. The exhibit will be on display from Jan 23 through Feb 6 and admission is free.

This well crafted exhibit presents a colorful array of complex pieces that were chosen by painting and drawing professor Joseph Di Bella because they demonstrate various formal and conceptual issues that he addressed during his professional career. These specific works vary in the techniques used to produce them as well as each piece's individual influences.

Di Bella chose these pieces so that his students can know firsthand, "the when I insist that they really investigate and look into interconnections of concept, technology, history of art, and various influences, that I'm not just talking out of my hat." The intricate and dynamic pieces in this exhibit show Di Bella's skill in all the areas that he teaches and the number of different approaches used in his art gives enough variety to do justice to his cause.

As I walked through the mingling crowd, I overheard many people exclaim, "this if Fabulous!" and "Oh my God, I love this one!" A junior,

Kimberly Quarforth says, "It's cool to see the work of my teacher." Quarforth regularly attends gallery openings and said she was "so glad its Di Bella's stuff, I'm excited to see more of his work."

Other students realized the clear connections to literature used throughout the exhibit. Senior Tom Roberts commented on his personal favorite, a piece entitled "Subito Sera," the most painstaking of Di Bella's work, a beautifully detailed egg tempera, eggshell mosaic and gold leaf on wood piece.

"I like how the piece really connects with older painting traditions like older Renaissance art and he makes a lot of connections in a number of paintings with classical motifs and Italian renaissance stuff," Roberts said. He then pointed to a wall which displayed the work "Omo Non Omo," and said, "It is interesting how [Di Bella] refers to Dante's Divine Comedy and how he plays with other literature as well."

Throughout the show it is clear to see the relationship between text and composition. Di Bella uses literature and mythology, as well as architecture, color, language, and landscape in a number of his pieces creating some "amazing and breathtaking work," said senior Jesse Kopp.

An example of literature's influence in Di Bella's work comes from Salvador Quasimodo's writings on the mystery of Sicily and its paradox of civilization. The influence is seen in the mono-

type "Beneath the Mount No. 1". The piece, one in a series of 10, highlights Quasimodo's poetic writing and Sicily's active volcano, Mt. Etna.

As Di Bella encourages his students he says, "Read something, it resonates and then all areas of life are available for the artist to investigate and see what it is to be human. Have a passion."

Many of Di Bella's works are conceptually challenging but demonstrate all of the techniques he wishes to impart to his students. This successful opening reception drew many students and members of the community who enjoyed the free food and great art. By 7 p.m. it was apparent that students were seeing what Di Bella intended with this exhibit.



Kat Pappas admires some of DiBella's work at Dupont Gallery.

## Improv Troupe Starts Second Semester With a Bang Undeniably Adjacent Come Back Strong With New Leadership

By DANIELLE VELARDI  
Staff Writer

Combs 139 held a steady crowd Friday night as members of the Undeniably Adjacent performed three different half-hour shows. Each show started with a one word suggestion from the audience. From there the members perform what is called the pattern game in order to generate scene ideas.

"Turtle!" A member of the audience yelled and the cast began the second show of the night. From this one word suggestion the cast explored spin-offs such as Pokémon, Squirtle, gotta catch 'em all, and sexually transmitted diseases.

The momentum of the show picked up once the cast members started doing what they call second beats of the scene. Second beats refer to coming back to a scene previously performed. Most of the scenes started out with two cast members. However, as the scene progressed others would jump in and out.

The show was not intended for those with weak

stomachs or the easily offended. Orgies, sexually transmitted diseases, and other outlandish comments were at times the crux of the show. The Undeniably Adjacent will not censor themselves for their adult audience.

Co-directors Kyle Dratwa and Melissa Falkenstein were pleased with the outcome of their first show of the semester.

Falkenstein said, "The show went well, especially the scenes that Melissa Falkenstein was in."

Judging by audience reaction, the Undeniably Adjacent deliver on the promises of their FaceBook events: fun and entertainment.

In the past, the cast members have varied throughout the three shows, however, only seven members were able to perform on Friday night. From the moment those seven members danced into the room to start the first show to the closing of the third, they managed to deliver a spectacular performance. There did not appear to be one unsatisfied face in Combs on Friday night and I suspect that every show from here on out will have the same vigor.



Danielle Velardi/Bullet

# Features

## Playing with Swords

By CHRISTINA LAMBERT  
Staff Writer

The swords are flying three days a week in the auxiliary gym. Swinging slender weapons called the sabre, the foil, and epee, the University's fencing club has begun practicing for a new semester of dueling.

The first event will be the Saint Valentine's Day Massacre, a local competition taking place Feb. 12.

Made up of about 50 members, the club teaches participants the proper techniques of fencing. Led by president Katherine Vrobel, senior, and vice president Damien Arthur-Alen, sophomore, the club encourages anyone to come out and learn how to fence.

The club was started in 1956. Three years ago, it held a special 50th anniversary party to celebrate. There are still old pictures of the fencing club hanging in Ball Hall.

"We've been around for a long time," Vrobel said.

The fencing club starts looking for new members at Club Carnival during the first semester. This past semester, about 100 people signed up. The majority of the new members were freshmen.

In all, there are around 50 active members who come to practice regularly.

The fencing club is student-run, so during practice, the officers teach the different weapons and help the newer members. Anyone wishing to join is encouraged to come to practice often during the start of the semester to practice with the weapons, but the club encourages new members to come at any time.

"We'll take the time to help new members," Vrobel said.

A typical practice starts out with jogging to warm up the muscles. Then the officers lead the group in calisthenics, which

See FENCING, page 8 ▶



Christina Lambert/Bullet

Fencing members work on technique during a practice in the gymnasium. There are approximately 50 club members.

## La Ceiba Lends Help



Courtesy of Shawn Humphrey

**The La Ceiba bank works to provide loans to low-income people in Honduras: "This is a unique thing. The students had a complete say in everything from the mission statement to the non-profit status, and they endured poverty the likes of which this country hasn't seen in years to put La Ceiba in place."**

-Shawn Humphrey, Economics

By HEATHER BRADY  
Staff Writer

Professor Shawn Humphrey was floating between houses in a Honduran squatter village when he noticed something surprising: one of the houses had a television that was hooked up to a battery and a motorcycle that was parked outside.

Humphrey went inside and, with the help of a translator, spoke to Benjamin, (pronounced Ben-hah-MEEN) the father of the family that lived there. He had gone to a loan shark to get the money for the motorcycle, which he used to transport medical supplies to the nearby city of El Progreso, and was now worried that if he defaulted on his loan repayment, the bank would take everything.

It was during this conversation, as Benjamin's wife was tearing up from the stress that the situation has caused their family, that Humphrey made a silent promise to fix the problem by

creating a bank.

Humphrey, an assistant professor of economics, visited the village of Siete in January 2008 along with several UMW students to check up on new and cleaner stoves they had previously installed in several houses as part of the Indoor Air Pollution initiative that the students organized. He was making sure everyone had what they needed and that things were progressing well when the modern symbols of wealth, Benjamin's house caught his eye.

The next night at dinner, he asked two students, senior Christine Exley and alumnus Justin Simeone, if they wanted to start a bank. They said yes.

"We had dinner in the lobby of the hotel where we were staying," Exley said. "I remember having a long discussion about poverty and how to help the people of Honduras. Humphrey was a little loopy, and he slammed his fist on the table and said, 'We're going

to build a bank.'"

Upon returning home, Humphrey organized the Two-Dollar Challenge, where students lived on \$2 a day for a week and raised \$6,750 for the loans that were to be given out as the first functioning part of the 'microfinance institution' called La Ceiba that students would create in Humphrey's class during the upcoming fall semester. As he and his students discovered, they could no longer call the institution a 'bank' for tax reasons.

Over the summer between school semesters, Humphrey and the students who were preparing to work on the new project relied on junior Rachel Mason from UMW and Megan Coolidge from William and Mary as their contacts for the people of Siete.

The two long-term Students Helping Honduras volunteers formed relationships and built a client base for the project, which was made easier because, despite the abject poverty of

their clients, most of them had cell phones. Coolidge then joined the efforts of the class in the fall via a microphone from William and Mary, taking it as a distance-learning course.

"Economic development is founded on relationships," Humphrey said. "Megan had a trust with the villagers that she passed to the class. We earned trust with the stoves, which was ultimately a very successful initiative. We said we'd do something, and we did it."

The fall economics class, a 400-level experiential learning course, involved nine students. During the semester, they delegated tasks such as public relations, getting non-profit help, planning the loan awarding ceremony, operations and logistics to specific students.

"I was in charge of creating the Indoor Air Pollution follow-up survey and the survey to measure the poverty level for La Ceiba customers, to see if

See LA CEIBA, page 8 ▶

## UMW Plans Gender Neutral Rooms

By ROBYN GIANNINI  
Staff Writer

For the first time ever, men and women students at UMW may be able to room together. It is not in effect yet, but that is the ultimate goal of a conceptual living program on campus that aims to take emphasis off of gender.

If it eventually does come to pass, UMW will be the first public university in Virginia to ever implement such a program.

Next year, the University of Mary Washington will offer students the option to live in a residence community that focuses on the specific theme of gender as part of the Conceptual Living Program in Residence Life.

The Conceptual Living Program provides students the opportunity to reside in a uniquely themed community that they themselves personally design.

Christine Porter, the director of Residence Life, emphasized that the option to create a specifically themed living environment in the residence halls is available to all students on campus.

Themed communities in the past have included such groups as the International Living Center in Framar, various language groups, and even a collection of students one year who deemed themselves the "Physically Active Fitness Friends."

Students that express interest in creating a specifically themed housing community need only to apply for the program through Residence Life, obtain a faculty advisor, and meet certain educational goals required by the themed housing community.

These educational goals include various activities and programs that are aimed to both unite the students within the community, as well as to educate the student body of Mary Washington about their particular interest.

"We want these communities to be vibrant, but we also want them to be contributory," Porter said. "We want them to be adding value to the residence experience here at Mary Washington."

Porter emphasized the importance of the students involved in the conceptual living program working towards specific goals.

"If you don't know what you want to achieve, you're not going to be able to figure out how to get there," she said.

The students involved in the Gender-themed Conceptual Living Program originally wanted to create a residential environment where the idea of gender was completely ignored.

Mary Pilger, a senior at UMW, is

See GENDER, page 8 ▶

# Yates' Book, Movie Portray 60s Drama

*April: "I just don't know who you are... And even if I did, I'm afraid it wouldn't help, because you see I don't know who I am, either."*

-Excerpt from Revolutionary Road

By VIRGINIA SCOTT  
Staff Writer

As we enter tax season, the demise of hockey and football season, another season is right around the corner; Academy Award season. *Revolutionary Road*, the movie, is up for three nominations, Best Supporting Actor, Art Direction, and Costume Design. It is an adapted screenplay because it was first written as a novel of the same name by Richard Yates set in the early '60s. The early '60s is a time most college students only remember reading about or seeing movies regarding the era. It has a beautiful veneer across it, a façade that seems to crumble, especially in Yates' novel.

The book and movie are about a couple, Frank and April, who have two young children and cannot believe what they have become. They thought themselves unique, exceptional to their everyday surroundings, friends, and humdrum occupations. However, both come to realize how homogenous they really are.

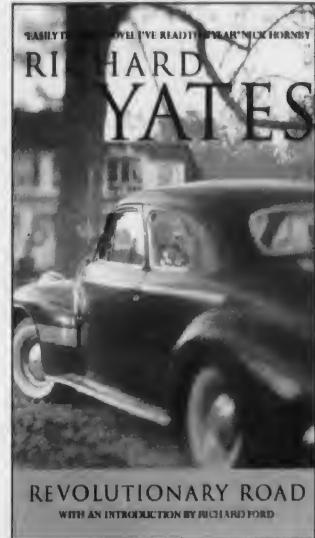
This is something that is played throughout the book and, at times, seems like maybe they are overcoming their fear and emerging to be someone that is greater, more courageous than everyone else. April decides Frank deserves better than Middle America and talks Frank into moving to Europe. However, the latter half of the book is about each spouse manipulating and playing mind games (whether it is intentional or not) with each other. They end up not pursuing Europe when April gets pregnant with a baby; April wants to have an abortion and Frank continues to persuade her to keep the baby.

Things take a downward spiral as Frank begins an affair with the secretary at his "horribly boring"

job and April sleeps with Shep, Milly's husband, the couple's only friends. To agitate matters more, their neighbor and realtor, Mrs. Givings, brings her insane and aggressive son from the local insane asylum, John, over on particular weekends. April never really had a relationship with her parents and John's tedious relationship with his now dead parents is a common denominator of the two and provides much internal and external strife between them. John Givings is also a background catalyst when they ponder if he is really insane, simply telling the truth, or saying too much. This becomes the vehicle of the couple's downfall, which results in an unintentional suicide and manslaughter.

This book is intense in the right spots, creates believable and complete characters, even outlying characters that do not stay present in the plot. Yates' skill at immersing the reader into the lives of each character is really the strength of the novel and will lead the audiences of the movie to enjoy them and commiserate with them. Thematically, *Revolutionary Road* does not bring anything new to the scene; however it is so well written that it promotes the idea that this probably did happen in the sixties. The realistic tone Yates uses with each character is magnificent and creates an understanding and bond with the characters; it is mostly written from Frank's point of view, but also enters April, Mrs. Givings, Shep, and Milly.

I picked this novel up in an airport while waiting for a flight over winter break. I was actually looking for a more popular novel, but I am much happier I decided to go on a whim and pick Yates' book instead. At the end of the book's 355 pages, each reader will most likely feel a loss, despite the main characters missteps and blunders; they are us in the 1960s, trapped in a world of monotony and pastel colors.



**Title:** Revolutionary Road  
**Author:** Richard Yates  
**Copyright:** 1961, 1989  
**Price:** \$14.95  
**ISBN:** 978-0-307-45462-1

## Book Review

# Gender-Neutral Housing

### AIMING, page 7

one of the key founders of the program. "[The idea of gender neutral housing is to] room with a person, not a gender," she said.

Pilger, along with the other founders of the community, asserted that there is a profound difference between an individual's biological sex as opposed to their socially constructed gender.

She explained that the term "sex" refers to the biological distinction between a man or woman. A person's gender, on the other hand, is a much more complicated issue.

Pilger declared that an individual's gender encompasses the socially constructed expectations for a man or a woman within the context of our current society.

"Gender is what's between your ears, and sex is what's between your legs," she said.

Freshman Charlie Girard, another founding member of the housing com-

munity, explained that traditional residential housing isn't right for everyone. "[It] tends to marginalize GLBTQ [gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender] students that might feel more comfortable living in environments where there are multiple genders," he said.

Girard also explained that traditional students housing on campus tends to alienate transgender students whose sexes don't match their genders.

"Therefore they end up rooming with people whom they really may not relate to, and they just might feel more comfortable in other living environments," he said.

Yet Girard emphasized that the most important aspect of gender-neutral housing, aside from its educational and community purposes, is to provide a safe and comfortable living environment for all students, regardless of their gender or sexuality.

Girard is also the chair of a new sub-committee that was formed this year in PRISM called the Gender Diversity Statement Project. Current goals of the project include trying to get gender

identity and expression added to the anti-discrimination policy, and the attempt to implement gender-neutral housing in the residence halls.

In a completely gender-neutral residential environment, which Pilger and Girard hope to obtain in the future, members of the community would be able to live together regardless of their gender, biological sex, or sexual orientation.

However, the students residing in the themed housing community next year will still technically be separated by their biological sex. In fact, all the members of the gender-themed housing community are currently biologically female.

As it stands, the gender-themed housing community will be located next year in Madison Hall, composing four rooms and eight students.

"[Residence life is] not at a place" at this time to make that full leap into gender neutral housing, but I do believe that this is a great place to start," Porter said.

UMW will be joining fifty-six other

schools that currently offer gender-neutral housing as a residential option (specific standards and requirements varying according to the specific university).

Pilger, Girard, and Porter all emphasize that the entire purpose of the program is to reach out to the student body of Mary Washington in order to educate and unite the campus community.

Pilger said that she is not certain how many of the students on campus are aware of the differences in gender identity. She claimed that this is simply due to a lack of exposure of the specific issues of gender rights.

"I think that exposing campus to the fact that just because people are different," Pilger said. "They're not just some nebulous concept, like, hey, my name's Mary Pilger, and I don't fit into your gender binary; I'm not trying to rub it in your face, but get used to me, because I'm real."

# Bank for Poor

### LA CEIBA, page 7

they're moving out of poverty," Exley said. "The whole class decided the [institution's] policies. Most of our class time was spent discussing them."

Exley explained that La Ceiba is a microfinance institution with an account in a much larger Honduran bank, the Banco Fincensa, where Cosmo Fujiyama, sister and partner to Mary Washington graduate and SHH founder Shin Fujiyama, has connections and a positive relationship.

"The clients are allowed to use identification cards that we made for them," Exley said. "Since most of them are refugees from Hurricane Mitch, their identification was lost—if they did have some form of identification. I'm certain that most of them didn't. The Honduran bank basically made up new rules for us so that it would work out."

The 16 loans that the bank gave out were distributed to members of four solidarity groups of women to spread the responsibility of repaying the loans. Research showed women were more financially responsible and better at repaying loans than men, so they chose to limit the loans to women. But in structuring the loans, the class discovered that solidarity groups could be problematic as well.

"The biggest problem was the loan-default policy," Humphrey said. "We spent the most time on developing it because of the concern about solidarity-group pressure." In some instances, he added, members of the group lean on others not to default, using tactics such as physical threats, and even murder. For some, it can lead to suicide.

"We decided to use a client-based approach that has an appeals process if you default on your loan to get rid of this pressure," he said.

"We want to see what works," Exley said. "Economic development starts with a grassroots movement that implements something. It kind of works, and then you change it so it does work. I think La Ceiba is flexible, so if it works, we want to expand our client base and give more loans."

"We don't know if what we did was good," Humphrey said. "We won't know until we see the repayment rates. But over the summer, I did research as to how La Ceiba fits into the academic universe. This is a unique thing. The students had a complete say in everything from the mission statement to the non-profit status, and they endured poverty the likes of which this country hasn't seen in years to put La Ceiba in place."

The 16 loans that the bank gave out were distributed to members of four solidarity groups of women to spread the responsibility of repaying the loans. Research showed women were more financially responsible and better at repaying loans than men, so they chose to limit the loans to women. But in structuring the loans, the class discovered that solidarity groups could be problematic as well.

# Fencing Club

### PLAYING, page 7

is a special type of stretching that prepares the body for the explosive muscle action required in fencing. Following stretching, the group practices footwork, which is an essential part of fencing. Finally, the group practices point control, which helps to point out target areas to hit while fencing, such as the torso or chest.

There are three different types of swords to use when fencing. Members of the club can choose a foil, which targets the torso, an epee, which can target any part of the body, or a sabre, the most popular choice. It can be used to slash your opponent, unlike the foil and epee, which are used for poking. All of the equipment needed to fence is provided for the members.

"I've heard some people say that we're lucky to have what we have because of our resources and our connections," Vrobel said. "I have heard a lot of people say how lucky we are after graduating and going somewhere else and then coming back."

Not only are the swords provided for each member of the club, but so are the protective garments used to fence.

"You have to wear a large jacket. You look like a baked potato," sophomore Drew Radtke said.

Fencers must wear a canvas jacket that is twice the thickness of jeans in addition to a metal mask and a padded glove. There is also an optional vest called a plastron that is only required for competitions. For extra protection, a rubber tip is placed at the end of each sword. These extra precautions help to keep fencers safe.

"The worst injury you will get is a wrist," Arthur Allen said.

Since the swords and safety equipment are such a high priority, there are three officers in addition to the president and vice president called armors who order new equipment, take inventory of the equipment, and take care of the equipment.

Currently, the fencing club is preparing to compete this semester in two scrimmages, The Saint Valentine's and the second competition that will take place Feb. 15 at U.V.A.

No previous experience is necessary to join the fencing club. Any new members are welcome to join, and the captains and older members are eager to help anyone learn how to fence.

"You could come in here and never even heard of fencing and join the club," Vrobel said.

The fencing club has practice in the auxiliary gym three days a week on Tuesdays, Fridays, and Sundays.

# This Week in Town

### Friday

Becky Stewart and Slam Jam

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Cost: free

Location: The Griffin Bookshop 723 Caroline St.

More info: [www.thegriffinbookshopcoffeebar.com](http://www.thegriffinbookshopcoffeebar.com)

Jon Bachman

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Cost: free

Location: Frederick's 1005 Princess Anne St.

More info: [www.jonbachman.com](http://www.jonbachman.com)

### Saturday

With Haste at KC's Music Alley

Bands include: With Haste, Shinguh, The Ok Corral, and Melodime! Oh Boy!

Time: 9 p.m.

Cost: \$6

Location: KC's Music Alley 1917 Princess Anne St.

More info: [www.myspace.com/withhasterock](http://www.myspace.com/withhasterock)

### Sunday

Beginners and Plus Horseback Riding

Ages 7 and up,

Time: 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Cost: \$120 registration required

Location: White Buffalo Horse Farm, Route 20

More info: [fredericksburgva.gov](http://fredericksburgva.gov)

# News

## Changes Coming to Monroe

### MONROE, page 1

to how the bookstore trailer will provide enough soundproof space for learning to be productive. John Wiltenmuth, associate vice president of Facilities Services, says this will not be a problem.

"The interior of the trailer will be reconfigured with new walls to create the classrooms," Wiltenmuth said. "The walls will have insulation both for energy conservation as well as sound reduction between the rooms."

Barra says she has not heard any criticism from students about the administration's decision.

"I have not heard any negative comments from students about having classes in the temporary structures. Unfortunately, we do not have any alternative," Barra said. "Monroe Hall needs to be vacated in order to do the renovations and without using these temporary facilities we would not be able to accommodate all of the classes that need to be offered."

Other buildings on campus will also have to be used to house classes displaced by the restorations. Barra states that the portion of Dupont Hall that currently houses the offices of the Bachelor of Liberal Studies Program would be converted into classrooms when the program moves into Lee Hall, but she gave no other specific buildings that would be affected.

Some seminars will also be held in the two large houses recently acquired by the University on the corner of College Avenue and William Street.

There will be some movement of offices from these renovations as well. The departments who currently have their offices in Monroe will be moved all over campus.

The department of economics will be moved to the new house acquired by the University at 1004 College Avenue. The department of history and American studies and the department of political science and international affairs will move their offices to Mercer Hall. The department of sociology

and anthropology will move to the second floor of George Washington Hall and the department of geography will move its offices and lab to the current Financial Aid trailer on College Avenue.

Joseph W. Nicholas, associate professor of geography, is more optimistic about the move and potential improvements.

"I feel the renovations are going to be positive; the geography department is getting a pollen analysis lab out of it," Nicholas said.

However, Ranjit Singh, assistant professor of political science, is not looking forward to teaching classes in the bookstore trailer but is willing to deal with it during the two year renovations.

"Having classes in the trailer is not ideal, but all of the professors understand that this is a necessary arrangement to have a better space in the future," Singh said.

The movement of Monroe-based operations around campus is an ongoing process.

"It's a little bit of a puzzle we are working with, but we're getting there," Barra said.

Built in 1911, Monroe Hall is one of the oldest buildings on campus and has gone through many renovations throughout its long history, the most recent of which occurred in 1978.

According to Barra, the current restorations to the building will be replacement and repairs to the mechanical systems as well as reconfiguration of the offices and upgrades to the windows to make them more energy efficient.

Hurley also mentioned repair and replacement of the pillars in the front of Monroe as part of the renovations in the Board of Visitors meeting on Friday, Nov. 14.

Some students and faculty are also

wondering what will happen to the murals that are currently in the main lobby of the building.

According to Hurley, the University made the decision to leave the murals where they are and as they are until funds become available to restore them. Hurley says the estimated cost to restore the murals will range from \$76,000 to \$208,000.

Members of the UMW community are split on the issue of whether to preserve or get rid of this artwork.

"I feel they should be saved because they show the history of the building," Pryor said.

However, others disagree, saying the murals should go while they are renovating Monroe.

"As an alum I think people remember them better than they actually are. I would prefer to see new murals in their place," Singh said.

Hurley says the estimated cost to restore the murals will range from \$76,000 to \$208,000.

The UMW community is split on the issue of whether to preserve or get rid of this artwork.

"I feel they should be saved because they show the history of the building," Pryor said.



Jess Masuli/Bullet

## Coming Soon...

## University Cafe

### Coffee House - Lounge - Bar

### Affordable Food & Live Entertainment!

### Downtown

### 409 William Street

### Eagleone Accepted

## Student Ventures to D.C., Attends Ball

### BALL, page 1

amount, \$50, for a 45 minute ride – over a dollar a minute. I am convinced this prejudice was due to my lack of Obama gear; I should have pulled out my tax and paraded that around, but I refrained.

Finally making it to my date's apartment, I was greeted with the challenge of learning to tie my own bowtie. YouTube was my savior, as I worked hard to practice tying one on my knee, all the while wishing I just rented a clip-on. Apparently monkey see, monkey do worked and on the first try, I was able to secure a perfect bowtie around my neck this time.

However, my elation only lasted so long because when I put on the tuxedo jacket I felt as though the bottom seam-line might touch my knees. I knew I would be one of the youngest there, so sticking out even more with a blatantly too long jacket did not sound appealing. According to my date, that was not enough reason to get out of going, so I begrudgingly headed out the door with the 42 extra-long jacket – I wear a 42 long.

When we arrived to the museum, the main entrance was beautifully lit with blue and red interchanging lights illuminating the awe-inspiring front entrance columns. We followed behind security that ushered the guests and

press who were weighed down by massive amounts of cameras.

After stopping by the coat check, our VIP tickets allowed us to be ushered right into the newly renovated 28,000 square foot courtyard as big as a city block with a lit glass ceiling.

The main entertainment took place in this location for the night with festive food, as well as a concert with five different performers, most notably JT Taylor of the hit group Kool and the Gang. While the music was fantastic, the gorgeous museum exhibits definitely took the cake. We were able to wonder throughout the practically deserted hallways, since many were busy dancing.

The most notable exhibit was "The Honor of your Company is Requested: President Lincoln's Inaugural Ball." The exhibition took its viewers back 143 years to Abraham Lincoln's second Inaugural Ball, which was the reasoning behind this particular gala's name. This small exhibition celebrates the President's second Inaugural Ball held in March 1865 at the museum's location.

The ball took place as Lincoln's second term began, with the Civil War in its final stages, and only six weeks before Lincoln was assassinated at Ford's Theater nearby. The exhibition relates the ball to the building and its history and features artifacts from the

Inaugural Ball, including the invitation, menu, engravings illustrating the night's event, and even Lincoln's dress coat.

By the end of the night we had full fill of food, drink, and dancing, and had made our way through the majority of the museum. With my date's hand wrapped around her shoes, which apparently looked more comfortable than they felt, we walked towards the metro.

At the end of the night, I was left with a sense of accomplishment and appreciation for what every person was out to celebrate: the election of a new president and restoring America's Promise.

## Student Services Committee Unites UMW

### SSC, page 1

lieve that this committee has been very valuable in identifying areas where the University can meet the needs of students."

The six student members include senior Student Government Association President Sean O'Brien, senior Sarah Isaac, senior Kasey Walker, junior Emerson Ayestas, sophomore Kelly Reeder, and freshman Jaclyn Petrow.

"The purpose of the committee is to truly listen to the students and take their suggestions and try to run with them," explained Reeder. "Those on the committee realize that they are here solely for the students, and it is their responsibility to address those questions, concerns, and requests."

Reeder said she volunteered to create the Facebook forum so that more students would have access to the committee, and that each suggestion has been taken to the committee and addressed.

At every meeting, Reeder said the committee discusses points from previous months and how much progress has been made toward rectifying past and current student questions, suggestions,

and concerns.

According to the January 15 meeting agenda, all offices will be moved into Lee Hall by the fall of 2009, beginning with the bookstore in February.

The agenda also notes that a separate Lee Hall Committee continues to work on front-line staff training and additional matters such as signage and a directory.

"The committee is focusing on making Lee Hall completely student-friendly," Reeder said. "They realize that that is our space and it needs to be centered around our needs."

She said the committee plans on having a student representative in Lee Hall who will gather student concerns and suggestions and forward them to the appropriate administrative department.

The January 15 meeting agenda lists twenty-two resolved issues and actions related to student life, involving students' concerns, suggestions, and requests regarding parking, residence life, and other campus services.

A description of the resolved issue is followed by an account of the action taken to solve or clarify the issue.

For example, one issue listed is "Se-

mester parking passes requested."

The subsequent action explains, "A student entering in January pays \$100 for the semester; a student entering in the fall pays the full year (\$200), and if they leave before the start of the spring semester, they receive a \$100 refund."

Other actions taken as a result of student suggestions include additional customer service training planned during the spring semester for UMW Police, plans to turn the contractor parking lot at the end of Lee Hall back to students at the end of Lee Hall construction until Monroe Hall construction begins, and the placement of trashcans at the parking deck.

"In general, we try to fix anything we can immediately solve. The committee also tries to understand what our real priorities are involving student needs and address those first," Mikhalevsky said.

At the April 25, 2008 committee meeting, the last meeting of the 2007-2008 academic year, the agenda lists several other accomplishments to date, including additional training for student services staff relating to knowledge about the operations of other offices on campus.

Ongoing goals identified in the April agenda include improving and enhancing communications across all student services and between students and the administration and addressing administrative "red-tape," which Reeder explained as the committee working to make communications between students and the administration easier.

"There are a lot of faculty and staff who really care about students," Mikhalevsky said. "We are working hard to address the needs of our students."

Megan Lemon, a sophomore who posted her concerns on the Facebook group, describes the forum as "a good way to give the students a better voice."

However, Lemon adds, "If the Facebook group administrators could notify students who belong to the group of their activities or progress with the administration, then students might feel like their voices are important and would contribute more to the forum."

Reeder said the committee decided to create the Facebook group to inform students about the committee and that the committee is also considering creating flyers and hanging them around campus to further promote the

committee.

"The committee really wants more student input," Reeder said. "It is impossible to change any policies without the information from the students."

Mikhalevsky said blast e-mails, such as the one informing students of the pilot parking program, are also a standard form of committee communication.

Faculty and staff members who currently serve on the committee, include Assistant Vice President for Public Safety and Community Services Susan Knick, Interim Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students Cedric Rucker, Director of Student Activities Joseph Moller, and Director of Residence Life Christine Porter.

"Since she arrived at UMW, President Hample has continually stressed the importance of providing our students with the highest level of service. Hopefully the Student Services Committee can play a key role in our efforts to give students the best possible experience here at Mary Washington," Wilder said.

The committee's next meeting is scheduled for February 19.



# What's Up In Campus Dining?

**Meet Sandy Williams**  
**Our Special Diets Coordinator**



**Do you have special dietary restrictions?** We currently have gluten-free, glucose restricted, additive-free, and other customized options available for those who must follow specific dietary guidelines. Sandy Williams, one of our culinary supervisors, helps to coordinate and implement these specialized options for our students. Sandy joined our UMW Dining Services team seven years ago as a Breakfast Action Station Cook and, due to her talent and skills, soon became a culinary supervisor overseeing our many action stations. Her beaming smile, bubbly personality, culinary skill, and superb customer service have made her a favorite with all our UMW students. If you have dietary restrictions, please meet with Sandy so that we may address your special dining needs. She is available Monday through Friday at Seacobeck Hall between 7 AM and 2:30 PM. Or, if you prefer, you may discuss your dining needs with our Executive Chef Fred German by calling 654-1928, or by e-mail at fgerman@umw.edu.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**THEATRE BRUNCH** - Sunday, February 15. **Students:** Purchase a ticket for the February 15th UMW production of *Goodnight Desdemona (Good Morning Juliet)* and enjoy Sunday Brunch in the Faculty and Staff Dining Room (with wait staff!) for a regular meal card swipe. Cash bar with Mimosas and Bloody Mary's available! **Faculty and Staff:** Brunch price is \$15 when you purchase the matinee ticket. Advance reservations required. Call the UMW box office at 654-1124. For more information go to [www.umwdining.com](http://www.umwdining.com).

**CHEFS' FARE** - Tuesday, February 17 at Seacobeck. Don't miss one of our most popular events of the year - our annual Chefs' Fare competition! In our "Tunes and Tastes" Fare, chefs from four universities will prepare special dishes for you that evoke the moods and styles of various musical genres. Then YOU get to vote for your favorite chef! At the recent Emory and Henry Chefs' Fare our Executive Chefs Fred German and Oscar Hernandez took second place - almost beating the home team chefs!! Please come out and enjoy an evening of great food and music, and vote for our home chefs, too! Get more information at [www.umwdining.com](http://www.umwdining.com).

**CHOCOLATE CREATIONS CULINARY SEMINAR** - Sunday, February 22. Learn how to create truffles, barks, gnoshes, & more!! This 3 hour seminar will be led by Executive Chef Fred German. Cost: \$25. Registrations due by February 13. Open to the entire UMW community and the general public. Minimum enrollment required. For more information go to [www.umwdining.com](http://www.umwdining.com).



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# *Sports*



# Mary Washington Stomps Salisbury



Samantha Daniel/ Bullet

**Freshman guard Rachel Martin is guarded closely in the University's blowout win of Capital Athletic Conference rival Salisbury University.**



**Love sports but hate to sweat?  
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Contact Joey Merkel  
[jmerk5zi@umw.edu](mailto:jmerk5zi@umw.edu)

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# Sports

## Super Bowl XLIII: Big Ben Vs. Cards

**By JOEY MERKEL**  
*Staff Writer*

In a poll of 48 University of Mary Washington students and two faculty members, over half believe that the Pittsburgh Steelers will take down the Arizona Cardinals in Super Bowl XLIII. That would of course mean that the other 20 thought the Cardinals would be the ones to prevail. Not so fast. Of the 50 polled, only 14 people think that the Cardinals, who are a seven-point underdog, will be able to pull off the upset.

No you didn't count wrong, so you may be wondering, "what happened to the other six." Well, it seems that of every 50 people at UMW, three don't know who is playing the game, and three of them couldn't care either way.

But now that we know the experts' choices, let's take a little more of an in-depth look at both of these teams.

The Steelers, who finished the regular season number one in almost every single category, have been able to stop the run all year. Coincidentally, the Cardinals finished the regular season dead last in the league in rushing yards per game with an abysmal 73.6 yards per game.

However, if you look at playoff statistics, the Cardinals have averaged 111 yards per game, almost a 40-yard improvement. It seems that the most obvious reason for this surge in rushing yards is

playoff veteran running back Edgerrin James.

With James taking the bulk of carries, the Cardinals' backfield is complimented well with one of the league's top goal-line backs Tim Hightower, who is in his rookie year. In just his first season in the league, the fifth-round pick out of University of Richmond, tied Carolina Panthers first-round running back Jonathan Stewart with 10 touchdowns.

Like most playoff games, it's important to establish the run and make sure the team knows you aren't afraid to attack the middle. But with the Steelers giving up just over 40 yards per game on the ground during the playoffs, maybe the Cardinals should be scared.

Let's take a look at positions. It is often suggested that the most difficult thing to do in sports is to quarterback in the National Football League, so it seems logical to start there.

In one corner, there is the grizzly, gray-bearded, veteran Kurt Warner playing for the Cardinals. Long thought to be a potential MVP candidate, Warner dropped out of the conversation after his team finished the season 2-4 and limping into the playoffs by winning the worst division in football. If you've heard rumblings of people arguing the Cardinals don't belong in the Super Bowl, it's probably because they know that in three of those four losses, the Cardinals managed to lose by 28, 31, and 40 to three teams that made the playoffs.

Back to Warner.

After beating out University of Southern California product Matt Leinart for the starting quarterback position, the former grocery-bagger Warner finished the year with over 4,500 passing yards and 30 touchdowns. Though his mobility is an issue, Warner still has the ability to stare off safeties in the pocket and hit the open receiver.

In Pittsburgh, we have the young overachiever, Ben Roethlisberger. After being forced into the starting role in his rookie year after an injury to Tommy Maddox, Roethlisberger took his team to the AFC Championship and followed it up with a Super Bowl win in his second year.

Roethlisberger is one of the most mobile quarterbacks in the league and arguably the best passer when out of the pocket in recent memory. His size and strength are a testament to how well he is able to shake off defenders and connect with his targets.

In the quarterback battle the advantage goes to Warner, though it is closer to being a draw. Warner had the better year statistically, and though they both have different traits that allow them to lead their teams to victory, Warner is going to be relied on more for their win, while the Steelers will most likely be relying on their defense.

Sorry Steelers fans, but the receiving core advantage goes to Arizona without even a discussion. The Cardinals have the best receiver in the league in Larry Fitzgerald and when you complement him with another top-5 guy in Anquan Boldin it keeps the defense so honest that one of these guys is usually getting one-on-one coverage.

However, as we have seen with Fitzgerald, who has broken every playoff receiving record there is, that even if he is double-teamed it doesn't matter; he's coming down with the ball.

The offensive line is a draw. Most people believe that the Steelers' main weakness is their offensive line but how can you say that they are worse than a team that averages less than 75 yards rushing per game.

"Fast" Willie Parker will get the carries for the black and gold and has the playoff experience that James does. However, Parker's age and quickness gives the Steelers a big advantage in the run game.

Offensively, the Cardinals have the better package simply because of how good their passing game is.

On the defensive side of the ball, it's tough to give any advantage to the Cardinals because of how consistently AP Defensive Player of the Year James Harrison and Troy Polamalu have been playing. But with Darnell Dockett and Bertrand Berry playing out of their skulls, the gap has closed a little.

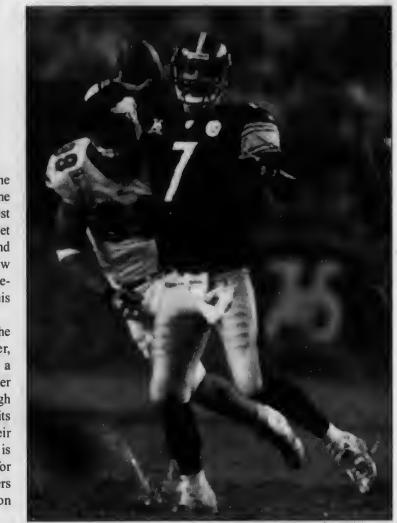
The one advantage that I think the Cardinals have is at the cornerback position. Rookie Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie has continued to excel at the position and has two interceptions in the postseason. The defensive backs of the Cardinals lead all postseason teams with seven picks (with another by middle linebacker Gerald Hayes).

With only a seven-point spread in Vegas right now, odds-makers clearly think that this should be a very close match-up even if most picks will lean toward the Steelers. As for me, you need only look at history. When the league's best defense meets one of the league's best offenses, you don't have to go back too far (a whole year) to see that defense wins championships.



Courtesy Mashgei of flickr.com

Larry Fitzgerald is arguably the best wide receiver in the NFL and he's got help on the other side in Anquan Boldin.



Courtesy TSWSarah on Flickr.com

**Ben Roethlisberger (#7) is one of the best quarterbacks in the NFL throwing outside of the pocket.**

Pittsburgh Steelers	Arizona Cardinals
Quarterback	✓
Running Back	
Wide Receivers	
Tight End	✓
Offensive Line	
Defensive Line	✓
Linebackers	
Cornerbacks	✓
Safeties	
Special Teams	
Kicking	
Punting	
Overall	



Courtesy Clint Olen

**Freshman center Ben Stokes goes up for a shot against Hood College in the season opener. The Eagles won 77-68.**

**By NICK NELSON**  
*Staff Writer*

With the ball in his court and the season hanging in the balance, University of Mary Washington men's basketball Coach Rod Wood made the decision to have his players try out a second time to earn their spots on the floor at game time.

Making good on his promise to make changes if needed, Wood did what had to be done, moving one player on the inactive roster, but was quick to explain that the player, who he did not name, is still a part of the team.

"He still practices, he works film of the games and works with the team, he just doesn't play," Wood said.

"And that's not to say this he is cut. He's still a part of the team," Wood said. "He still has a redeeming value. He's a great kid, he's just not progressing the way he needs to. I hope he gets it soon."

The coach explained his logic behind the recent roster shakeups, saying that he thought some of the players needed a little more motivation.

"Sometimes guys start to seem too comfortable, like their place on the team is secure, and that's not automatically the case."

Senior forward Kieman Whitworth and senior guard Matt Hale upon being asked about the topic, both declined to comment on their status with the

team or any other changes to the active roster.

Currently, the team has 15 players on the active roster, including seven guards, five forwards and three centers. They are a squad deep with experience, with only six players at freshman or sophomore status.

The men's basketball team hit early season struggles, winning their opener against Arcadia University by an 82-77 margin, but losing the next three games against Franklin and Marshall, North Carolina Wesleyan and Shenandoah, the last of which was a heartbreaking 75-73 loss in overtime.

"I run my team like any other coach in the country, and that's by running my roster on an ongoing basis," Wood said. "Once your team is set, you hope it's actually set, but be it from injuries or whatever, you're going to be losing people on and off all season long."

After trading wins and losses for much of the season, the team stands at 9-7 overall and 6-2 in the Capital Athletic Conference, placing them in third place behind Wesley College and St. Mary's College, respectively.

When asked about the subject, Wood said that he anticipates further cuts if necessary, but reiterated that he is not dissatisfied with the way his players have been behaving or performing off the court.

"These are good kids," Wood said. "They're

not getting in trouble with the law, they're not breaking rules, they're just not progressing athletically. Kids get it at different times, and if there are players who aren't learning quick enough, they're taking reps away from those are getting it faster or need it more."

Wood then explained what he looks for in his players.

"I want my guys to be good academically, athletically, and socially. Like anywhere else, there's a social contract. If you break that, there are repercussions," Wood said.

"But once you're on my team, I want you there forever. Just like you're alumni of the University of Mary Washington for the rest of your life once you graduate, once you're on my team, you're on my team."

The team has gone 4-2 in the month of January,

and won their most recent game 73-54 on the road against Stevenson University. The team played a game on Wednesday against rival Salisbury that ended past this publication's deadline. They will have a three-game Capital Athletic Conference road trip against Hood College, York College, and Gallaudet University before returning home to face St. Mary's College Feb. 11.